



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Advances in Gear Technology Forum

Defra perspective on areas of priority

Setting the legislative context



Fisheries Act



Joint Fisheries Statement



Fisheries Management Plans

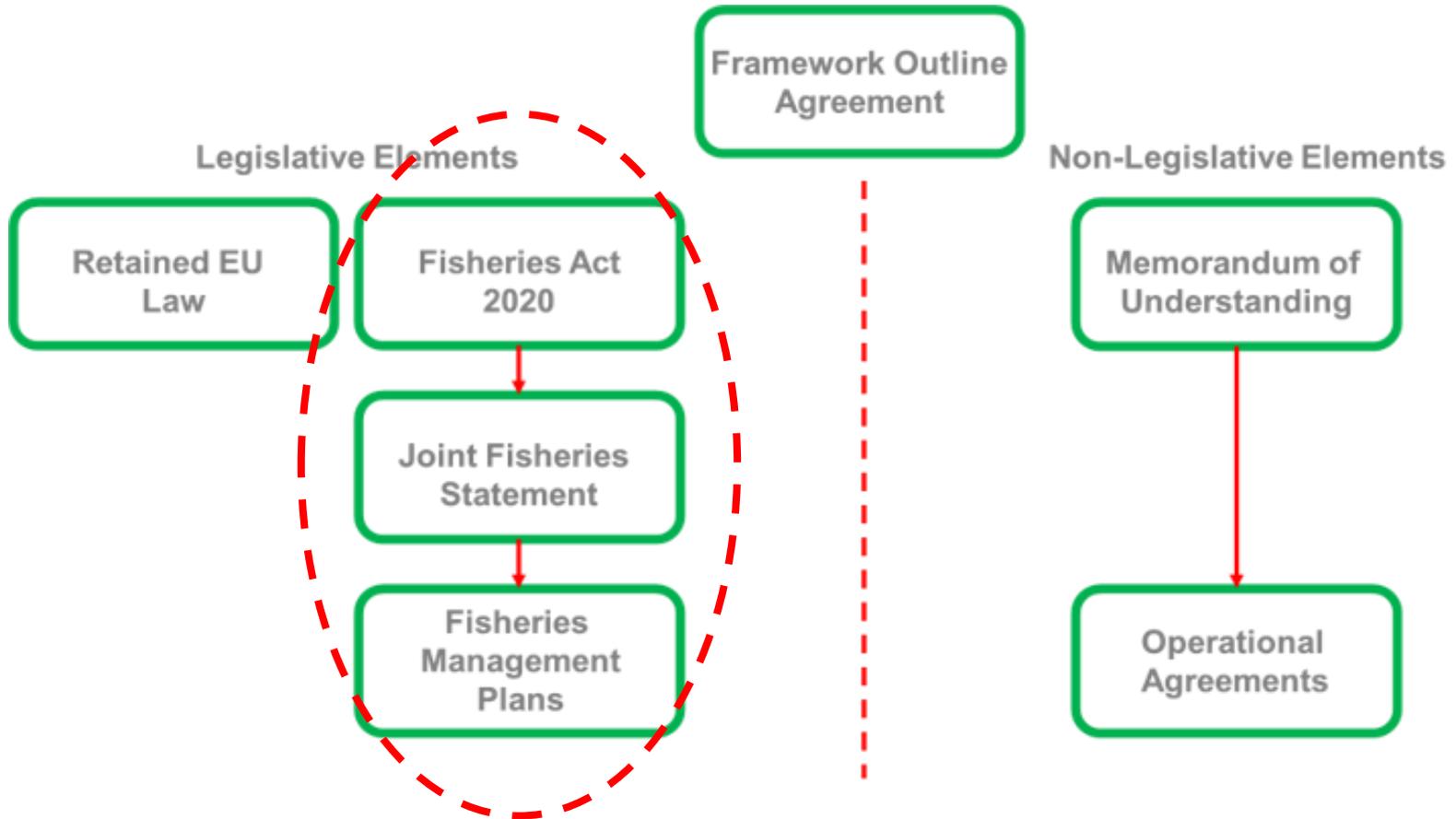


UK Marine Strategy



International agreements

Fisheries Framework



Fisheries Framework

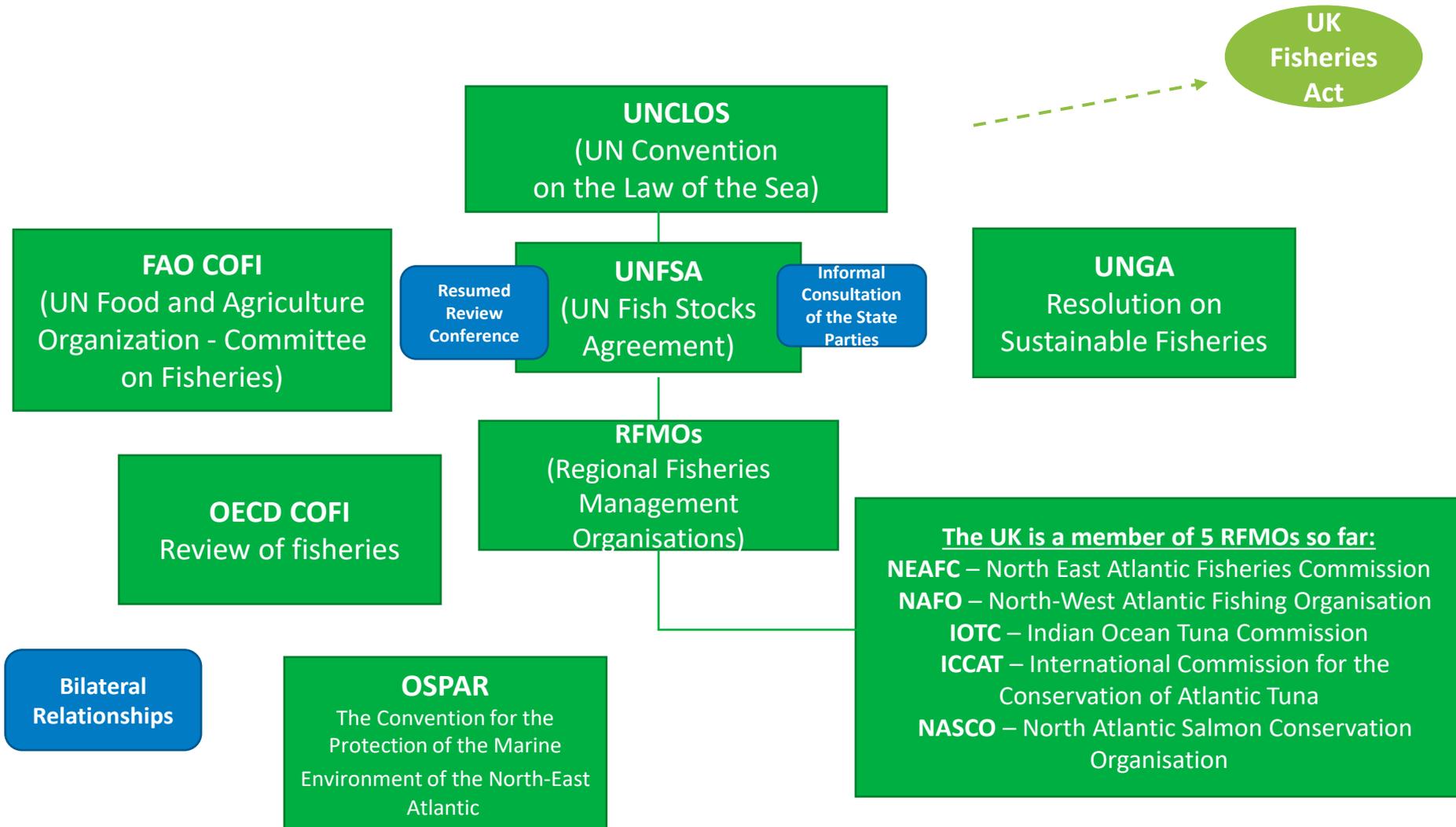
The 8 Fisheries Objectives:

- The sustainability objective
- The precautionary objective
- The ecosystem objective
- The scientific evidence objective
- The bycatch objective
- The equal access objective
- The national benefit objective
- The climate change objective

UK Marine Strategy

- The UK is legally required to take measures to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) for our seas, and to do this through development and implementation of a UK Marine Strategy (UKMS).
- GES = ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive. The use of the marine environment is sustainable and safeguarded for future generations.
- To achieve GES on benthic habitats, we have four targets to minimise, and where possible, reverse impacts of human activities on:
 1. physical loss
 2. habitat loss
 3. the extent of habitat types adversely affected
 4. the extent of adverse effects on condition, function and ecosystem processes of habitats

International aspect



Defra areas of interest for gear

Improving
selectivity of gear

Reducing impact
on sensitive
Species

Reducing impacts
of bottom-towed
gear

End of life fishing
gear

Climate change
mitigation

Improving selectivity of gear

- Gear selectivity is one of a range of measures and tools being considered as part of a future catching policy for England.
- Engagement and collaboration with industry to understand what impact gear selectivity has had so far and what more can be done, and where future focus should be.
- Cefas is undertaking sustainability risk research over the summer, to support our understanding of the scale of the risk discarding poses to sustainability for quota species.

Sensitive Species

- The Ecosystem Objective:
 - *"that incidental catches of sensitive marine species are minimised and, where possible, eliminated"*.
- Good Environmental Status – Bycatch Indicator
- UK Bycatch Mitigation Initiative
- Clean Catch UK

Reducing impacts of bottom-towed gear

- In 2021, 30% of the tonnage and 45% of the value of fish landed by UK vessels came from bottom trawling.
- Bottom-towed gears are one of the factors in preventing the UK from achieving GES under Marine Strategy.
- **Next Steps:**

Collaborate with industry to:

- Identify potential mitigation measures and innovations to reduce the impact of fishing on the seabed
 - Facilitate specific innovations and trials through identified fisheries
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End of life fishing gear

- Move towards a more circular economy by increasing the amount of end-of-life fishing gear that is collected and managed sustainably.
- Stimulate developments in the design of fishing and aquaculture gear to:
 - prevent gear loss
 - support gear retrieval
 - reduce environmental impact in the event of loss, improve reusability, repairability and recyclability

Climate change mitigation

- The Climate Change Objective in the Fisheries Act:
 - a) *the adverse effect of fish and aquaculture activities on climate change is minimised, and*
 - b) *fish and aquaculture activities adapt to climate change.*

Next steps:

Two aspects:

- Reducing emissions from the catching sector through **engine/boat** design.
- Reducing emissions from the catching sector through **gear** design.

Fisheries Funding

- *Purchase Support*

- The Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS)
- UK Seafood Fund (UKSF)

- *Innovation and Trials*

- The Seafood Innovation Fund
- The Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships Scheme